

DRAFT

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND
THE NEED FOR ACCELERATED ACTION TO ADDRESS
THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to human existence; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impact of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by approximately forty-five percent by 2030, achieve 'net-zero' emissions by 2050, and achieve and maintain net-negative emissions after that to hold atmospheric warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the commitments necessary to address the scale and scope of the climate crisis, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-55-18 ordering the State of California to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net-negative emissions thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment made it clear that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States of America, and that the current pace and scale of climate action is not sufficient to avoid substantial damage to the economy, the environment, and to human health over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, San Diego and the rest of California already suffers from the impacts of climate change in the form of drought, air pollution, extreme heat, species stress, negative health effects, wildfires, and floods, and these disasters will become more severe as global GHG emissions continue to poison the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, climate change will increasingly make basic human necessities more expensive and difficult to obtain; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States of America, frontline communities have historically borne the brunt of longstanding environmental injustice, including fossil-fuel created degradation, and it is acknowledged that these communities must actively participate in the planning, decision making, and implementation of climate action and must benefit equally from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, to stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius, cities and nations throughout the world will need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate will require mobilization at all levels of government and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War II; and

WHEREAS, efforts to control climate change will have many benefits, such as cleaner air and water, improved health, local employment, cost savings for households, businesses, and the City, and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego took a decisive leadership role in 2015 with the adoption of the Climate Action Plan, implementation of which is estimated will result in citywide GHG emissions reductions of at least 50 percent below the baseline by 2035, through targets including 100 percent renewable electricity citywide and 50 percent of residents in Transit Priority Areas biking, walking, and taking mass transit by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan provides a roadmap for San Diego to achieve the vision of becoming an engaged community that promotes environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity to create a sustainable and thriving future for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has already taken steps to lower GHG emissions by adopting the Climate Action Plan and establishing a regional Community Choice Energy program to achieve the goal of 100 percent renewable electricity citywide, and it is acknowledged that more work will be needed to achieve net-zero emissions and address the magnitude of the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Environment Committee has recommended establishment of an Environment Advisory Board, with seats for subject matter experts, to advise the Mayor and City Council on policies and projects, including lowering GHG emissions, implementing the Climate Action Plan, energy efficiency, environmental justice, and coordination with stakeholder groups; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of San Diego, that a state of climate emergency is hereby declared and that the global climate crisis poses a serious, urgent, and pressing threat to the well-being of San Diego, its inhabitants, economy, and environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego intends to swiftly transition to an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable economy and to reduce community-wide carbon emissions as much as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego reaffirms its goal of reaching 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 or earlier and that it will work quickly and collaboratively to work quickly to reach this goal and address the severity of the climate crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego reaffirms the necessity to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego commits to work and partner with residents, businesses, and community groups to educate our community about the climate

crisis, and to work to catalyze a just transition and a climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national and global levels, to provide maximum protection to our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of San Diego calls upon the State of California, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just transition and a climate emergency mobilization effort that reverses global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, halts the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure, rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, transitions to regenerative agriculture, works to end the sixth mass extinction of species, creates high-quality, well-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits, mitigates the potentially adverse impacts to those who will be most impacted by this transition, and results in an equitable, inclusive and resilient community for all.